



Attorney Docket: 381AS/44307C2
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: TOSHIMICHI MINOWA ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/820,533

Group Art Unit: 3661

Filed: MARCH 30, 2001

Examiner: D. TRAN

Title: AUTOMOTIVE CONTROL APPARATUS AND METHOD

Coker
P-9-02

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following is responsive to the Office Action mailed on or about March 28, 2002.

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SEP 03 2002

GROUP 3600

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claim 16.

(A marked-up version of the amended claims is attached to this Amendment.)

Amend Claims 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29 as follows:

Sub S^t
Cl Cnt
17. (Amended) A method of controlling a vehicle according to claim 30, wherein the driving force of the vehicle is controlled to gradually approach said driving force of the second running mode by controlling an air/fuel ratio of an engine of said vehicle.